

Baboons than to any of the Archipelagian species; by the extraordinary *Babirusa* of Celebes, a type of more African than Indian form, and by several anomalous and peculiar birds and some *Hymenoptera* of Celebes determined by Mr. Smith to be identical with African, as others with Indian and Chinese species. Here is a wide and most interesting field of research, in which I have long been working, and which I hope by the assistance of my collections to do much to elucidate.

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#### XLVII.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

##### 1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

MR. GOULD has issued the whole of the parts of the magnificent series of works upon which he is now engaged, for the present year. We have already noticed the 11th part of the 'Birds of Asia.' Of the 'Humming Birds,' Numbers XVII. and XVIII., we need only say, sustain the reputation of the preceding parts. No less than 270 species of these wonderful birds have now been represented; and the two next succeeding parts will, we believe, bring Mr. Gould nearly to the close of his labours.

The third number of the 'Supplement to the Birds of Australia,' whether we regard the beauty and novelty of the species portrayed, or the excellence of the illustrations, is perhaps one of the finest which Mr. Gould has ever issued. The *Malurus coronatus*, *Semioptera wallacii*, the three species of *Nestor*, the *Casuarius bennettii*, and the *Chlamydera cerviniventris* are all birds of very great interest, and it will probably be long ere such a series of splendid novelties is again brought before the public. Many of the species are from localities wide of the Australian mainland, but we agree with Mr. Gould in considering that the islands in which they originate certainly belong to the same primary fauna. The birds represented are—

*Malurus coronatus*, from N. Australia.

*Semioptera wallacii*, from Batchian.

*Psephotus chrysopterygius*, from N. Australia.

*Nestor notabilis*, from New Zealand (Middle Island).

—— *esslingii*, from New Zealand.

—— *hypopolius*, from New Zealand.

*Casuarus bennettii*, from New Britain.  
*Petroica* (?) *cerviniventris*, from N. Australia.  
*Chrysococcyx minutillus*, from N. Australia.  
*Zosterops albigularis*, from Norfolk Island.  
 — *tenuirostris*, from Norfolk Island.  
*Spatula variegata*, from New Zealand.  
*Chlamydera cerviniventris*, from N. Australia.  
*Merula poliocephala*, from Norfolk Island.  
*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*, from N. Australia.

The first part of the 'Illustrated Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1859 was published some time ago, and the second part, containing all papers read up to the end of the last meeting (June 28th), will be ready in a few days. The papers on Ornithology in the 'Proceedings' are many and voluminous, and the system now adopted by the Society of issuing them in parts renders the information concerning the many interesting novelties, which are continually brought before their scientific meetings, readily available to the public. The part of the 'Transactions' recently published (vol. iv. part 6) also contains several papers on Ornithology, namely by the late W. J. Broderip and the late H. E. Strickland on subjects connected with the Natural History of the Dodo; by Dr. Kaup on the Owls (*Strigidae*), and by P. L. Sclater on new *Accipitres* belonging to the collection of the Norwich Museum. Mr. Wolf's plates, illustrating the latter subject, are among the most happy of his performances. The 'Report of the Council of the Zoological Society' read at the Anniversary Meeting in April last, gives an arranged list of the animals then living at the Gardens. The number of species of birds exhibited was 317, namely—

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|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Natatores .....   | 51 | Columbæ .....    | 17 |
| Grallatores ..... | 39 | Scansores .....  | 79 |
| Struthionæ .....  | 7  | Insessores ..... | 55 |
| Gallinacæ .....   | 26 | Raptores .....   | 43 |

Mr. Bree's first volume of 'Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles' is completed, and the second commenced with Part XVI. We do not believe that *Ixos obscurus* has ever occurred in Europe. See Dr. Hartlaub's remarks in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 292. On the other hand, *Turdus ruficollis* cer-

tainly has been met with within its limits\*, and is very distinct, in our opinion, from *Turdus atrigularis*.

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The 'Annals of Natural History' for the last three months contain (p. 96) "Descriptions of four new species of Humming-birds from Mexico," by Mr. Gould—*Amazilia ocai* (!), *Calothorax pulchra*, *Cyanomyia violiceps*, and *C. sordida*, the first discovered by Señor R. M. de Oca, the three latter by M. A. Boucard; and (p. 224) "Descriptions of two new species of American Parrots," by Mr. Sclater, *Conurus holochlorus* from Mexico, and *C. xantholæmus*† from S. Croix.

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Mr. Cuthbert Collingwood's 'Comparison between ancient and modern views of the Migration and Habits of Birds ‡,' and 'Fauna of Blackheath and its Vicinity §,' which gives a list of the birds inhabiting that part of the country, are both worthy of notice.

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Mr. Edward Vernon Harcourt's 'Sporting in Algeria ||' will be received with pleasure, especially by such of our readers as have visited that country, or are turning their thoughts towards an excursion in that direction. It is an agreeable and interesting book. An Appendix is given of the names of the "Birds of Algeria," concerning which we have already contributed so much information in these pages.

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Among much that is of interest in the later numbers of 'The Zoologist,' we must claim particular attention for Mr. Osburn's letters to Mr. Gosse "on the Birds and Bats of Jamaica" (pp. 6587 and 6658). The second species of Mock-bird noticed p. 6591 is likely to be *Minus gundlachii*, Cab., of Cuba. Of the black Banana-bird described p. 6661, we possess several specimens, and we believe Mr. Osburn is right in considering it 'new to science' ¶.

\* 'Naumannia,' 1858, p. 311.

† See *antea*, p. 374.

‡ Liverpool, 1859, 24 pp.

§ London, 1859, 46 pp.

|| London, 1859, 1 vol.

¶ Mr. Osburn's suggested specific term '*nigerrimus*' should therefore

## II. FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

The numbers of the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for May, June, and July contain several articles on Ornithology. In M. O. Des Murs' "Notes sur les dernières espèces de *Cephaloptères*," an attempt is made to prove that the new and striking species of this singular genus described in our first Number (p. 114), as also Mr. Gould's *C. glabricollis*, are nothing more than different forms of the ordinary species, of which the latter is regarded as the adult male! M. Des Murs appears to be quite unaware that, however badly acquainted the naturalists of France may be with the adult state of *C. ornatus*, we in England know it perfectly well, from the numerous fine-plumaged specimens transmitted to this country by Mr. Hauxwell, and, more recently, by Mr. Bates, from the Amazon and Ucayali. He also seems to have quite overlooked Mr. Wallace's account of the habits of this bird as observed by himself on the Amazons and Rio Negro (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1850, p. 206), published long before M. de Castelnau's imperfect notice, which he regards as the earliest authority on this subject. It would seem almost useless to point out the great difference in the geographical distribution of the three species of *Cephalopterus* in a case where the locality of Mr. Fraser's bird (Pallatanga, at the western base of the Andes of Ecuador) is considered to be the *same* as the Yungas of Bolivia! For us, however, the mere fact of these birds being found upon opposite sides of the Andes, at some thousands of

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be employed. As a generic name—the form being apparently different from any previously characterized among the *Icteridæ*—we propose that of *Nesopsar*; and the species will therefore stand as *Nesopsar nigerimus*. (P.L.S.)

*NESOPSAR*, gen. nov. Rostrum rectum, capite vix brevius, subquadratum, compressum, apice acuto, mesorhinio lato et plano, verticem versus extenso: alæ breves, remige secunda, tertia et quarta æqualibus et longissimis, quinta his paulo brevior sed primam excedente: cauda modica, quadrata: pedes validiusculi, tarsi brevibus, ungue postico fortiore.

Typus et sp. unica *N. nigerrimus*.

♂ Niger unicolor, æneo paulum splendens: rostro et pedibus nigerimis: long. tota 8·0, alæ 4½, caudæ 2·8, rostri a fronte 1·1.

♀ Mari similis, sed paulo minor.

*Hab.* in ins. Jamaica.

*Mus.* Bremensi et P.L.S.

miles' distance from each other, would be sufficient to make us very doubtful of the *possibility* of their belonging to the same species. And, as for *C. glabricollis*, M. Des Murs seems to have forgotten that it was in *Veragua*, northwards of the Isthmus of Panama, where this remarkable bird was discovered by the indefatigable Warscewicz. But there can be no doubt that the three *Cephalopteri* are quite distinct species in the ordinary acceptance of the term, though closely allied, and, as is often the case in similar instances, representatives of each other in different zoological regions.

In the sixth number of the 'Revue,' M. Taczanowski gives an interesting account of his observations on the nesting of *Parus pendulinus* as noticed in Poland in the woody marshes on the banks of the Vistula. M. Moquin-Tandon continues his "Notes Ornithologiques" upon the birds of the South of France in the 7th number.

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The first part of M. Malherbe's 'Monographie des Pics' has been issued, and gives us every reason to believe that the high expectations we had formed of its value as a scientific work will not be disappointed. The plates are well executed, and will leave no difficulty in recognizing the species of *Picidæ* for the future. We are not yet, however, converts to M. Malherbe's plan of altering established generic names, so as to make them terminate in "*picus*" or "*picoides*," and we had almost hoped that the author would have abandoned this part of his scheme, seeing the little favour it has met with amongst his brother naturalists.

### III. GERMAN, DUTCH, AND RUSSIAN PUBLICATIONS.

Among the articles in the first two parts of Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie,' we have already noticed Dr. Hartlaub's "Monographie der Glanzstaare." Dr. Bernstein's notes upon the edible-birds'-nest-making Swifts (*Collocalia*)\* of Java, and

\* Several attempts have been lately made to clear up the somewhat complicated synonymy of the species of *Collocalia*—compare Moore, Cat. Mus. E. I. H. vol. i. p. 98; Cassin, Zool. U. S. Expl. Exp. p. 183, and Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. xli. p. 976. Dr. Bernstein has already conclusively shown that this genus of birds belongs to the Swifts (*Cypselidæ*), and not to the Swallows. See Verh. Kais. Leopold. Ak. Nat. 1857, p. 15.

Herr Eug. v. Homeyer's critical remarks upon disputed species of European birds, in reply to Professor Blasius, are also of great interest. We are glad to see the specific validity of *Amydrus tristranii* so strongly upheld by Dr. Hartlaub. With regard to his suggestion that Reichenbach's term *Pyrrhocheira*, as established in 1850, should take the place of *Amydrus*, we cannot allow that much consideration is due to Dr. Reichenbach's generic names, published as they were without any descriptive characters, or even the name of the type-species. Indeed, in this very case, the late Prince Bonaparte did "not doubt" \* that the type of *Pyrrhocheira* was *Mimus carolinensis*; and, for aught we know, he is as likely to be right as Dr. Hartlaub,—the only guide to the question being the not very clearly delineated outline of the head and feet (*Avium Syst. Nat.* pl. 53).

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A thick number of 'Naumannia' (Parts IV., V. and VI. in one) concludes the volume for 1858, we suppose, although no title-page and index are given. It contains several very important articles, amongst which we may point out as particularly worthy of notice the following:—(1.) Dr. Blasius' "Briefliche Mittheilungen über Helgoland," p. 303. An account is here given of the learned author's visit to this curious little island (which seems to be a favoured spot where all the rarest birds in Europe delight to congregate) and its resident naturalist Herr Gätke. Among the list of rarities given by Dr. Blasius are six birds new to the fauna of Europe: *Anthus ludovicianus*, L., *Orpheus lividus* (Wils.), and *Toxostoma rufum* (Linn.), from N. America; *Phyllopneuste borealis*, Blasius (*P. eversmanni*, Middend., nec Bp.); *Lanius phœnicurus*, Pallas, and *Calamohërpe certhiola* (Pallas), from northern Asia. (2.) Dr. Blasius' remarks upon the Gulls of Pallas' *Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica*, p. 316. (3.) Dr. Carl Bolle's biographical notice of *Pyrrhula githaginea*, as observed by himself in the Canaries, p. 369. (4.) H. Gätke's letter on his captures in Heligoland in 1858, p. 419. *Dendroica virens* of N. America is here recorded as having been obtained on the 19th October. But *Larus rossii* is not new to Europe,

\* Compt. Rend. xxxviii. p. 56; Notes Orn. p. 39.

as H. Gätke supposes, it having already occurred more than once in the British Isles\*. At p. 424, a list of 23 rare species obtained in Heligoland by the writer is given, the greater part of which are new to the fauna of Europe. (5.) H. Aug. v. Pelzeln's list of birds obtained in Madagascar by the late Madame Ida Pfeiffer.

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The division containing the Birds of H. Schlegel and J. A. Herklots' 'Fauna van Nederland' † is now complete, and forms a thick duodecimo volume of 700 pp., illustrated by pretty little figures of all the birds of Holland.

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We have only lately met with a copy of Hofman's work on the Northern Ural ‡, being the Report of the exploring expedition sent out in 1847-50 by the Imperial Geographical Society to that country. The second volume contains a list of birds collected or observed, with remarks. Seventy species are enumerated, but nothing of particular interest is noted.

#### IV. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

The tenth volume of the Pacific R. R. Reports § contains the separate zoological Reports of the several expeditions under the commands of Lieut. F. G. Beckwith, Lieut. A. W. Whipple, Lieut. J. G. Parke, Lieut. R. S. Williamson, and Lieut. H. L. Abbott. Amongst them will be found the field-notes of the different observers upon the birds collected during their explorations, illustrated with plates of the species not previously figured. The several articles are as follows:—(1.) Upon the birds collected on the survey of the 38th, 39th, and 41st parallels, by Prof. Baird: (2.) Upon the birds collected on the route of the 38th parallel, by Dr. C. B. R. Kennerly: (3.) Upon

\* Yarrell's Brit. B. ed. 3, and Suppl. to ed. 2.

† Fauna van Nederland door H. Schlegel en J. A. Herklots. Leyden, 1851-59.

‡ Das nordliche Ural und das Küsten-gebirge Pacchoi, &c. St. Petersburg, 1856, 2 vols. 4to.

§ Reports of Explorations and Surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Vol. x. Washington, 1859.

the birds collected on the survey of the 32nd parallel, by Dr. A. L. Heerman: (4.) Upon the birds collected during the explorations in California, by Dr. A. L. Heerman. It is a pity, the plates, which are nicely done, are not marked with the names of the species figured, as this omission causes so much trouble in reference.

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For information concerning the first volume of Dr. Brewer's valuable work on N. American Oology, we refer our subscribers to the Review of this and Herr Bädcker's work given above, which has been furnished to us by one of our most valued correspondents.

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The Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the year 1858 contains (p. 153) the "Instructions in reference to collecting nests and eggs of North American Birds," which we have before alluded to; also (p. 280) a "List of the Birds of Nova Scotia," compiled, from notes by Lieut. Blakiston, R.A., and Lieut. Bland, R.E., made in 1852-1855, by Prof. J. R. Willis of Halifax; and a "List of the Birds of Bermuda," by Lieut. Bland, both useful as local lists.

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We have received a separate copy of a paper entitled "Catalogue of Birds collected in the vicinity of Fort Teyon, California, with a description of a new species of *Syrnium*," extracted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Nat. Sc. of Philadelphia for July last. The new *Syrnium* is *S. occidentale*, of the general appearance of *S. nebulosum*, of which, we suppose, it is the Western representative.

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XLVIII.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Notices, &c.*

SINCE the date of our last Number, another member of our Ornithologists' Union has left England to take up his residence in a foreign land. Mr. Edward Newton, having received the appointment of Assistant Colonial Secretary at the Mauritius, started by the Overland route on the 16th of August last, and, by the time this announcement is read, will, we hope, have safely arrived at his destination. Though there has been a 'Société